



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Begins Search for Outstanding Small Business Owners And Advocates for 2004 Small Business Awards

The Philadelphia District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) invites individuals and organizations to nominate candidates for the 2004 eastern, central and northern Pennsylvania SBA Small Business Awards.

Nominations are being sought for **Small Business Person of the Year**, Young Entrepreneur, Small Business Exporter, Entrepreneurial Success, Family-based Business, Journalist Advocate, Financial Services Advocate, Women in Business Advocate, Home-based Business Advocate, Research Advocate, Minority Advocate, and Veteran Advocate. Advocates are individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to increase opportunities for small business through their business or profession.

“In the past the public has responded to this awards program and we have had fantastic candidates and winners as well,” commented Thomas G. Tolan, SBA District Director. “This past year we were honored to be home of the State Small Business Person of the Year, Rose Schoch of Stroudsburg, PA’s Schoch Harley-Davidson/Buell. Not only that, but out of the 10 remaining award categories 4 of our local small businesses and advocates captured the Regional award”. “We not only received the fantastic support of our resource partners in this nomination process, but we also received many nominations from those employed by small businesses. We encourage people to continue to nominate individuals again this year.”

Nomination must be forwarded to the SBA District Office by **Friday, December 19, 2003**.

Local award winners will be selected by a blue ribbon panel of economic development professionals, academicians and small business owners. All local award winners are eligible for national competition.

To obtain a **2004 SBA Awards nomination package** detailing selection criteria and step-by-step instructions, contact SBA, c/o Georgi Emery, Small Business Awards Coordinator, 900 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, call 215.580.2718, or send an e-mail to georgeanna.emery@sba.gov. 2004 award festivities honoring the winners and their nominators will be held at the Citizens Bank Park, new home of the Philadelphia Phillies. This annual event is hosted by the SBA and the Advocates for Small Business.

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For a listing of last year’s Small Business Week winners, visit www.sba.gov/pa/phil